

14  
Borough of  
otherwise



Bunheved  
Launceston

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1969

Health Area Office,  
LAUNCESTON, Cornwall.

W. PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.



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BOROUGH OF DUNHEVED otherwise LAUNCESTON

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1969

Health Area Office,  
Launceston,  
Cornwall

WILLIAM PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health



BOROUGH OF DUNHEVED otherwise LAUNCESTON

Members of the Public Health Committee - 1969

The Worshipful the Mayor of Launceston -

Councillor J.Hobbs

Councillor J.D.Rashley (Chairman)

Alderman W.F.Hender (Vice-chairman)

Alderman Mrs.J.C.Hicks

Councillor S.G.Adams

Councillor C.J.Moore

Councillor L.W.Moses

Councillor E.J.R.Martin

-----  
Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :  
Medical Officer of Health :

W.PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B.,D.P.H.

also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health : Launceston Rural District Council  
Bude/Stratton Urban District Council  
Stratton Rural District Council  
Camelford Rural District Council

Health Area Medical Officer, Area No. 6 - Cornwall County Council  
School Medical Officer - Cornwall County Council

Chief Public Health Inspector :

G.E.GIFFORD, M.A.P.H.I.

Authorised Meat Inspectors :

J.S.HYNDFORD

J.ELLISON

# SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2,182
Population	4,700
No. of separate dwellings occupied	1,717
Rateable Value 1969	£197,190
Produce of ld. rate	£801

## LIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 estimated population</u>
Legitimate	54	27	27	11.9
Illegitimate	2	1	1	-
<u>STILLBIRTHS</u>	1	-	1	17.5 (Rate per 1,000 total births)
<u>DEATHS</u> (all causes)	108	44	64	23.0

Puerperal and post-abortive  
sepsis Nil  
Other Puerperal causes Nil

## INFANT MORTALITY

(Deaths under 1 year, per 1,000 live births)

	2	1	1	36
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		10	7	17
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			N I L	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			N I L	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)			N I L	

Health Area Office,  
Launceston.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Dunheved, otherwise Launceston.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical  
Officer of Health for the year 1969.

The number of deaths during the year, 108, was 23 fewer  
than in 1968. The number of births also decreased, 56 compared with  
66 in the previous year. This maintained the unfavourable balance of  
deaths over births, but, in spite of this, the Registrar-General's  
mid-year estimate of the population showed an increase of 30, from 4670  
to 4700, indicative of a continued movement of population into the  
Borough. Two infant deaths and one stillbirth were recorded.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease once again was low.

The sanitary circumstances of the Borough continued to be generally  
satisfactory, with the maintenance of constant unobtrusive supervision  
which is essentially preventive in purpose.

I must express my thanks to Mr.G.E.Gifford, the Council's Chief  
Public Health Inspector, for his valuable co-operation in all aspects of our  
work together and in the preparation of this report. The Council's other  
Departments have continued their willing help. I am grateful to the General  
Medical Practitioners for their co-operation.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge, once again, the continued interest  
and encouragement of the members of the Council and, in particular, of the  
Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM PATERSON

Medical Officer of Health



AREA (in acres) 2,182. This ancient Borough is the natural centre of the agricultural community in North Cornwall and adjoining parts of Devon. It has important markets and some light industry.

POPULATION - The Registrar General has estimated the population for the mid-year 1969 to be 4,700, an increase of 30 on the previous year. The "natural increase" in the population is the excess of births over deaths. In 1969 there were 52 fewer births than deaths.

DEATHS - The total number of deaths assigned to the Borough for the year was 108 compared with 131 in 1968. The crude death rate, based on the mid-year population, was 23 compared with 28.1 in the previous year. The following table has been compiled for comparison with previous years :

<u>Years</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Recorded Rate</u>
1965	105	50	55	22.97
1966	80	44	36	17.50
1967	77	32	45	16.7
1968	131	72	59	28.1
1969	108	44	64	23.0

In order to compare the mortality in the District with the mortality for England and Wales, it is necessary to make a correction to allow for the difference in age and sex distribution of the two populations. This is done by applying to the crude death rate of the District an "Area Comparability Factor" which has been estimated by the Registrar General as 0.56 for this Borough.

The standardised Death Rate, therefore, is 12.9 which may be compared with that of 11.9 (provisional) for England and Wales.

BIRTHS - The number of live births assigned to this Borough was 56 compared with 66 in 1968. The rate per thousand of the population was 11.9. When the Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor for births (1.09) is applied to this figure, the Standardised Birth Rate of 13.0 for this Borough compares with 16.3 (provisional) for England and Wales.

STILLBIRTHS - There was one stillbirth during 1969.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS - There were two illegitimate births assigned to the Borough during the year.

MATERNAL MORTALITY - No case of death during pregnancy has been recorded.

INFANT MORTALITY - There were two infant deaths in 1969.

<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Cause of Death</u>
M	4 days	Respiratory distress syndrome
F	10 months	Congenital laryngeal spasm

NOTE :

Vital Statistics. It is important that too much weight should not be attached to small variations in these rates from one year to the other, particularly where relatively small populations are involved - attention should rather be paid to the trend of these rates over a period of years.



MORTALITY TABLE

Classified in accordance with 65 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Disease, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1967.

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm - oesophagus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm - intestine	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm - breast	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm - uterus	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm - prostate	1	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms	2	1	3
Diabetes mellitus	1	-	1
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	-	2	2
Hypertensive disease	-	8	8
Ischaemic heart disease	13	19	32
Other forms of heart disease	1	2	3
Cerebrovascular disease	8	14	22
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	3	5
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Bronchitis and emphysema	1	3	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1
Other diseases of digestive system	-	1	1
Congenital anomalies	1	-	1
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	-	1
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	1	-	1
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	1	-	1
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	-	1	1
All other external causes	-	1	1
	44	64	108

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

### General Medical Services

General Medical services under Part IV of the National Health Service Act, 1946, are provided by medical practitioners resident in the district and in adjoining districts, all of whom undertake maternity medical services.

### County Council Services

- I Health Department : The County Council is the local health authority for the purposes of Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and provides the following services in the district :-
- (a) Midwifery and Home Nursing. Nurse-midwives are provided to attend general nursing and midwifery cases in the home.
  - (b) Health Visiting. Health Visitors are available to give advice on health matters in the home or at the clinic. Originally concerned with the care of mothers and young children, which is still their basic function, they are increasingly concerned with other age groups, particularly the aged. Some health visitors combine the work with general nursing and midwifery. All act also as school nurses.
  - (c) Child Welfare Centre. A Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Health Clinic, Launceston, three times each month.
  - (d) Dental Clinic. Priority dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children is available at the Dental Clinic at the Health Clinic, Launceston.
  - (e) Vaccination and Immunisation. Facilities for vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, and for poliomyelitis vaccination are provided at the Child Welfare Clinic or by the supply of materials to the family doctor.
  - (f) Home Help Service. Home helps are employed to provide domestic help for households in certain circumstances, a charge being made for this service according to the means of the person concerned.
  - (g) Ambulance Service. A service of ambulances for the conveyance of sick, accident and emergency cases is provided. For sitting cases, utilicon sitting case vehicles are used. When appropriate, some such cases are carried by the Hospital Car Service, a voluntary organisation. Day-to-day administration of the service is carried out from Ambulance Control, Bodmin.

(h) Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care. A full-time tuberculosis health visitor is provided for the care and after-care of tuberculous persons. District nurses are available to assist in the treatment of such persons when required by the Chest Physician or family doctor. Routine tuberculin testing and, if necessary, B.C.G. vaccination (i.e. vaccination against tuberculosis) is provided for senior school children. Certain special investigations are carried out in other types of illness by district health visitors, and health education is carried out by the County's medical and nursing staff.

(i) Mental Health. The County Council has certain responsibilities in connection with the ascertainment of mental ill-health and mental deficiency, with the provision of statutory supervision, etc. for mental defectives living in the community, and with the provision of after-care following treatment for mental illness. The Mental Welfare Officer for the district works from the Health Area Office, Launceston.

II Education Department. As local education authority, the County Council is responsible for the School Health Service, which provides the following :-

Periodic Medical Inspection of pupils  
Cleanliness surveys of pupils  
Dental Inspection and treatment of pupils  
Ascertainment of handicapped pupils in need of special education  
Treatment Clinic, Health Clinic, Launceston :-  
Dental Clinic by appointment  
Child Guidance Clinic, by arrangement.

III Welfare Department. This service is concerned with the welfare of the aged, and with that of various categories of handicapped persons. It is concerned also with the provision of temporary accommodation in certain circumstances for persons in urgent need thereof. The Welfare Officer for the district works from the Health Area Office, Launceston.

### Hospital Services

The South Western Regional Hospital Board is the hospital authority for the area.

Launceston Hospital provides in-patient and out-patient facilities in the district. Patients are referred also to hospitals in Plymouth and elsewhere. Cases of infectious disease are admitted to the Scott Hospital, Plymouth, and tuberculosis patients to Didworthy Chest Hospital and Tehidy Hospital. Mental hospital accommodation is provided by St. Lawrence's Hospital and Laninval House, Bodmin and Moorfields Hospital, Ivybridge, Devon.

An Orthopaedic Clinic is held twice monthly at the Health Clinic, Launceston, and a Physiotherapy Clinic at Tavistock Hospital. The Chest Clinic is held at Launceston Hospital.

An Ophthalmic Clinic for school and pre-school children is held periodically at the Launceston Health Clinic. A specialist Ante-natal clinic is held in Launceston each week.

#### Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Plymouth, to which specimens for bacteriological examination are sent.



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLIES

A new large diameter main conveying water from Bastreet reservoir was completed during the year and augmented the existing supply during the latter four months. The somewhat increased daily demand to 210,000 gallons was adequately met. The water supplied from the Bastreet source is, after treatment, less acid than Launceston's original supply and consequently the less aggressive to metal. The Bastreet reservoir can, when necessary, receive water from the newly constructed Sibleyback reservoir.

Out of a total of 1,717 dwellings with a population of 4,700 persons, 1,710 dwellings and 4,682 persons are supplied with water from public water mains.

No stand pipes are used in the Borough.

SAMPLING

The following is a summary of reports of water samples taken in the area:-

Public Supplies

I By East Cornwall Water Board

(a) Untreated Water

Chemical Samples : No reports received.

Bacteriological Samples :

<u>No. of Samples taken</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli</u>	<u>No. of Samples Containing Coliform Bacilli Type 1 (faecal)</u>
58	39	35

(b) Treated Water

Chemical Samples : Three reports were received, two being from the Bastreet service reservoir and one from the Launceston Sub-Depot.

The Bastreet samples were reported as being clear and bright in appearance and free from metals. A marked alkaline reaction was present which was not however considered excessive. The water was soft in character and contained no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. Its organic quality was of a high standard. These results indicated a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes, from the aspect of the chemical analysis.

The sample from the Launceston Sub-Depot was reported as being practically clear and bright in appearance and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water had however a faintly acid reaction on account of which it would tend to show corrosive action on metals. It was very soft in character with a fairly low content of mineral and saline constituents. The water conformed to the highest standard of organic quality. These results indicated a pure and wholesome water from the aspect of the chemical analysis. Although the sample showed a significant amount of carbonate hardness, it would still tend to show corrosive action on metals due to its reaction on the acid side of neutrality.

Bacteriological Samples :

<u>No. of Samples taken</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli Type 1 (faecal)</u>
47	4	0

II By Health Department, Launceston Borough Council  
(from Distribution System - treated water)

Bacteriological Samples :

<u>No. of Samples taken</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli</u>	<u>No. of Samples containing Coliform Bacilli Type 1 (faecal)</u>
13	0	0

It is the routine practice of your Health Department to send a copy of each bacteriological report on these samples to the Chief Engineer, East Cornwall Water Board, for his information.

Private Supplies

One sample from a drinking fountain supplied via an underground reservoir on Council property, declared to be suspect and in process of being side-tracked contained coliform organisms. Works have now been completed to eliminate the use of this suspect service reservoir.

Insufficient Supplies

Six dwellings within the Borough were, due to almost complete occlusion of their services, without wholesome water in pipes sufficient for the basic purposes of the occupants that is to say, for drinking, washing, cooking and sanitary purposes. Following certification to this effect under sub-section 6 of Section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936 as amended by the Water Act, 1945, the Engineer and Manager, East Cornwall Water Board



implemented the powers vested in that Board by Section 42 of the Third Schedule of the 1945 Water Act and effected in a most efficient manner the provision of new individual supplies in place of what had formerly been a single common service. This co-operation was greatly appreciated.

#### SWIMMING BATH

The swimming bath at Coronation Park is of the open air type. It has a capacity of approximately 100,000 gallons of water which is filtered by the circulating method and chlorinated by an automatic dosing plant.

Out of twenty-five samples of water taken for bacteriological analysis, coliform organisms were absent in all but one sample taken during a heavy bathing load in August.

#### CHILDREN'S PADDLING POOL

Sixteen samples of water were taken from the paddling pool and were, with the exception of one occasion, reported as free from coliform organisms. On this occasion, the paddling pool water was quickly changed and no further trouble was experienced.

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Launceston is largely served by the separate or dual system of sewerage, whereby surface water is excluded from the foul sewers. One property only remains which still uses conservancy methods and this is likely to be demolished in the very near future.

There are two sewage disposal works, a small one at Scarne built by Army Authorities during the war and modernised in 1959, and a much larger one at St. Leonards which has functioned in its new form since April, 1963, following complete reconstruction and enlargement.

Plans are well advanced for the provision of larger capacity sewers to cope with the growing industrial population.

#### DISINFECTION

Current and terminal disinfection by means of gaseous and liquid disinfectants is carried out when infectious disease is notified, and the circumstances of the case require it.

#### DISINFESTATION

Disinfestation of premises is carried out when required, but it has only been necessary to deal with minor infestations during the year.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING

Bi- weekly collections are made of house refuse, and weekly collection made of refuse and paper from trade premises. A compression type refuse loader is used. The increased volume of both domestic and trade refuse is presenting problems both from the aspect of collection and of final disposal.

Additional land is being acquired at the disposal point to ensure a safer tipping point for the vehicle.

### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

All public conveniences are provided with washing facilities.

### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

There were 143 premises registered under this Act at the 31st December, 1969, 15 having been newly registered during the year. 81 inspections were carried out, 28 of them being detailed general inspections.

RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS

1. Number of properties in district

2. (a) Total number of properties  
(including nearby premises)  
inspected following  
notification

(b) Number infested by (i) Rats

(ii) Mice

3. (a) Total number of properties  
inspected for rats and/or  
mice for reasons other than  
notification

(b) Number infested by (i) Rats

(ii) Mice

TYPE OF PROPERTY	
NON- AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL
2347	32
51	3
33	1
7	-
250	20
16	3
3	-

SEWERS

4. Number of sewers infested by  
rats during the year ... .. 1

POISONS USED :-

Warfarin 30 lbs.  
Arsenic  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.

Zinc Phosphide Nil

HOUSING

1.	Estimated population	...	...	...	...	4700
2.	(a) Total number of permanent houses at 31st December, 1969	...	...	...	...	1717
	(b) Total number of permanent houses owned by Local Authority at 31st December 1969	...	...	...	...	332
3.	(a) New houses erected					
	(i) by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	10
	(ii) by private enterprise	...	...	...	...	28
	(b) Number of applicants on housing list at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	155
4.	Number of houses specially provided for, and occupied by, people of pensionable age during 1969.					
	(a) Receiving contribution from County Council for Welfare Services	...	...	...	...	6
	(b) Other houses	...	...	...	...	-
5.	Houses demolished -					
	(a) in clearance areas -					
	(i) Houses unfit for human habitation...	...	...	...	...	-
	(ii) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	...	...	...	...	-
	(iii) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	-
	(b) not in clearance areas -					
	(i) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17(i) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	2
	(ii) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	-
	(iii) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts...	...	...	...	...	-
	(iv) Unfit houses included in unfitness orders	...	...	...	...	-

6. Unfit houses closed -

(a) Under Section 16(4), 17(1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Under Section 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	Nil

7. Unfit houses made fit and houses in which  
defects were remedied -

	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(a) after informal action by local authority	16	-
(b) after formal notice under -		
(i) Public Health Acts	11	-
(ii) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Acts, 1957	-	-
(c) under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957...	-	-

8. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Act, 1957)

(a) Retained for temporary accommodation -				
(i) under Section 48	...	...	...	Nil
(ii) under Section 17(2)	...	...	...	Nil
(iii) under Section 46	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 53	...	...	...	Nil

9. Purchase of houses by agreement -

Houses in clearance area other than those included  
in confirmed clearance orders or compulsory purchase  
orders, purchased during the year.

-



10. Housing Acts 1949 - 1969

Improvement Grants -

(a) Discretionary -

Number of applications received - dwellings	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of applications approved - dwellings	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total approved expenditure	...	...	...	...	Nil
Total amount of grants made	...	...	...	...	Nil

(b) Standard -

Number of applications received - dwellings	...	...	...	...	8
Number of applications approved - dwellings	...	...	...	...	8
Total approved expenditure	...	...	...	...	£1,479 (Max. grant permitted)
Total amount of grants made	...	...	...	...	£2,664 (18 dwellings)

Note - 3 grants approved to 31st December, 1969 were unpaid at that date.  
 Number of applications for standard grants to 31st December, 1969 total 110.



INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(i) Classified Number of Food Premises in the Area

<u>Type of Premises</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960</u>		
		<u>Section 16</u> <u>complied with</u>	<u>Section 19</u> <u>Obligatory</u>	<u>Section 19</u> <u>Complied with</u>
Butchers	8	8	8	8
Small Goods Factories	3	3	3	3
Bakehouses	2	2	2	2
Bakers' shops	2	2	2	2
Cafes and Hotels	11	11	11	11
Dairies	5	5	5	5
Fish and Chip Shops	2	2	2	2
Greengrocers	4	4	4	4
Grocers	15	15	15	15
Poulterers	1	1	1	1
Slaughterhouses	2	2	-	2
School Meals Kitchens	3	3	3	3
Hospital Kitchens	2	2	2	2
Fresh Fish Shops	2	2	2	2

Note: Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Section 16: Requirement to provide personal washing facilities

Section 19: Requirement to provide facilities for the washing of food and equipment

No exemptions from the requirement to provide the above facilities have been issued by the Council.

(ii) Classified Number of Food Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 or under local Acts, and the number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 to 1959.

Premises registered for Storage and Sale of Ice Cream	26
Premises registered for the sale of Fish and Chips	2
Premises registered for Sausage Manufacturing, etc.	8
Premises registered as Dairies	6

(iii) Inspection of Registered Food Premises

The following inspections of registered food premises were carried out :-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>Inspections</u>
Fish and Chip Shops	5
Sausage Making Establishments, etc.	53
Ice Cream Premises	33
Dairies	41

### Contamination of Foodstuff

In January, complaint was made concerning the mouldy condition of apricot pies manufactured by a national undertaking and sold locally. A system of code marking to ensure freshness is adopted by these undertakings and it is the duty of the local vendor to ensure that code marks are examined daily and stale articles removed from sale. This duty was obviously not understood locally and a number of firms have been visited and the position explained. In the same month, further complaints pointed to the fact that sufficient care was still not being taken at the same establishment, from which complaints had previously come, and as it was felt that a serious position was developing, the matter was brought to the attention of the firm's head offices and staff changes were made. The position has now improved.

Legal proceedings were taken in March in respect of an incident which occurred in November, 1968, when glass chippings varying in size up to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " and pieces of flintstone of similar size were found in a bottle of milk. The milk had been delivered by a large undertaking operating in the South West of England.

In June, complaints from a local school were received concerning the presence in tinned beans of what appeared to be pieces of hard rubber. The producer's attention was drawn to this and although the matter was investigated, the origin of these foreign bodies, or their exact composition, could not be established.

Complaints were received from time to time during the year to the effect that cartons of fish were being improperly delivered on to the footway near a fishmonger's premises at an early hour and were being fouled by animals. This fact was confirmed by observation during an early morning visit and both the national distributors and the persons to whom delivery was made were advised of the serious nature of this contravention.

#### (iv) Educational Activities

Posters, leaflets and codes of practice, where applicable are issued to food-producing establishments and food shops, and advice is given whenever possible.

#### (v) Condemned Food

Unsound or diseased meat, according to the type of meat, is sent to one of two premises either at Exeter or Ascot where it is sterilised and manufactured into fertilised and other products. Condemned canned food is dealt with by incineration at the Council's Refuse Tip. With the introduction of the Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations, 1969, all butchers' meat or imported meat unfit for human consumption must be sterilised before entering the chain of distribution, the only exception being its dispatch to specially approved outlets, transportation to be in locked containers or vehicles.

#### (vi) Special Examination of Large Food Consignments.

In October, it was necessary due to a complete breakdown of refrigeration equipment, to declare a quantity of pre-packed frozen foods unfit for human consumption and they were dealt with by voluntary surrender.

In December, a complaint was received that larvae were present in plain flour being sold locally. It was not immediately possible to confirm this contamination, but after special examination it was confirmed that larvae of the common mill moth were present. The producer concerned identified the series number of the particular batch of flour and withdrew immediately all such flour from the various establishments concerned.

(vii) The Imported Food Regulations, 1968.

There has been a further growth of the importation into this country of foods in sealed containers and a number of consignments have been forwarded by Port Health Authorities for inspection by this Authority as the receiving authority. The item usually concerned is bacon.

(viii) Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947 - 1959

No ice-cream is produced in the Borough of Launceston. Fifty-five samples of ice-cream, all of the hot mix type, were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. Thirty-nine samples were classified as Provisional Grade 1, eleven as Provisional Grade 2 and five as Grade 3. No samples were graded as Provisional Grade 4. It is desirable that 80% of the samples should be classified in Grades 1 and 2, not more than 20% in Grade 3 and none should fall into Grade 4. These standards were attained during the year. The only samples falling below Grade 1 occurred during the month of August.

(ix) Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 to 1960

Frequent inspections of all food establishments in the Borough were carried out during the year.

(x) Milk and Cream

There are six registered dairies in the Borough. Eight premises are licensed to retail milk. There are no producer-retailers.

The following samples of milk were taken by this Department during the year :-

Untreated Milk

No Untreated Milk is retailed in the Borough.

Pasteurised Milk

Thirty samples of Pasteurised Milk were taken, and all but one passed the Methylene Blue test. All samples passed the Phosphatase tests.

Cream

A careful check was made during the year to ensure that all cream sold in the Borough was from premises registered and approved for such purpose. The premises of two producers were found to be unregistered and steps were taken to ensure compliance with the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959. Three samples of cream were taken and were reported as being free from pathogenic organisms.



Brucella Abortus

No samples were submitted for the identification of this organism during the year, as both producer-retailers in the Borough cancelled their producer-retailer's licences and ceased to retail raw milk.

(xi) Unsound Food

Fourteen visits were made in order to condemn foodstuffs.

(xii) Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection

100% meat inspection was carried out within the Borough during the year. There was a decrease of 7,132 in the number of animals slaughtered in 1969 indicating a fall of 9.1% compared with the 1968 figure and representing a total kill of 71,356 animals made up as follows :-

Bovines	5426 decreased by 773 or 13%
Calves	1643 decreased by 1288 or 44%
Sheep	43372 decreased by 6489 or 13%
Pigs	20915 increased by 1418 or 7%

Cysticercus Bovis

There were three cases of infestation by Cysticercus Bovis detected during 1969, as against four in 1968. Two of the animals were steers and one was a cow. The parasite, developmental stage of the human tapeworm, taenia saginata, was found in the cheek muscle of three animals and in the heart muscle of one animal.

Affected carcasses are totally condemned if the condition is generalised otherwise they are treated by three weeks refrigeration at a temperature not exceeding 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

Legal proceedings were taken in connection with the disposal for human consumption of a bovine carcass affected with Cysticercus Bovis and suspected of generalisation. This carcass was, in direct contravention of the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963, permitted by the Management to be used for human consumption. Convictions were obtained under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section 8 (1) (b) and the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, Section 7 (1) and Section 15 (b).

Tuberculosis

No cases of Bovine Tuberculosis occurred during the year. The incidence of Tuberculosis in pigs was 1.9% slightly less favourable than the 1.1% recorded in 1968.

Slaughtering Licences

Thirty licences to slaughter animals were granted during the year.

Diseases of Animals Act

No diseases notifiable under the Diseases of Animals Act occurred during the year.

For details of animals inspected and condemned see Table IV.

(xiii) Poultry Inspection

(i) Number of poultry processing premises within the district	1
(ii) Number of visits to these premises	38
(iii) Total number of birds processed during the year	366,184
(iv) Types of birds processed	
Turkeys	2,360
Fowls	312,198
Broilers	35,618
Capon	16,008
(v) Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	Average 2 - 4 %
(vi) Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption	13,302 lbs.
(vii) Comments on poultry processing and inspection :-	

Further modernisation of machinery has been effected and the throughput has steadily increased. Every co-operation is received by the management ensuring the rejection of any but first class birds.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Classified List of Registered Factories at 31.12.69.

	<u>Power</u>	<u>Non-Power</u>	<u>Building Operations</u> <u>Electrical Stations</u> <u>Institutions, etc.</u>
Aluminium Fabrication	1	-	
Agriculture Implement Repairs	4	-	
Bakehouses	1	-	
Carpet Manufacture	1	-	
Cabinet Making	1	-	
Cellulose Spraying	1	-	
Children's Clothing	1	-	
Corrugated Cases	1	-	
Dental Workshop	1	-	
Dresses and Millinery	1	-	
Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	1	-	
Hide Salting and Dressing	-	1	
Horticultural Machinery Repairs	1	-	
Joinery	6	1	
Laundry	2	-	
Letter Press Printing	2	-	
Monumental Mason	1	-	
Motor Body Painting	1	-	
Motor Body Builders	1	-	
Motor Vehicle Repairs	14	-	
Meat Preparation, Sausages	1	-	
Poultry Slaughterhouses	1	-	
Rope Splicing	-	1	
Sawmills	1	-	
Self Service Petrol Pump Controls	1	-	
Seed Cleaning	1	-	
Sausage Manufacturers	2	-	
Television Repairs	1	-	
Tyre Repairs and Fitting	1	-	
Upholstery	1	-	
Watch and Clock Repairs	2	-	
Wool Grading	1	-	
Electrical Stations			1
Building Operations			6
Slaughterhouses			1
	<hr/> 55	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 8 <hr/>

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961 are attached as an appendix to this report in accordance with Circular 1/70 of the Department of Health and Social Security.



PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER  
DISEASES.

The infectious diseases which are statutorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health are the following :- Cholera, plague, relapsing fever, typhus, smallpox, acute encephalitis, acute meningitis, acute poliomyelitis, anthrax, amoebic dysentery, bacillary dysentery, diphtheria, infective jaundice, leprosy, leptospirosis, malaria, measles, ophthalmia neonatorum, paratyphoid fever, typhoid fever, scarlet fever, tetanus, tuberculosis, whooping cough, yellow fever and food poisoning.

The monthly incidence of infectious disease is shown in Table II.

Smallpox. No case was notified during the year, in the course of which 186 vaccinations and 69 re-vaccinations were carried out in the whole of the County Council's Health Area No. 6. It is not now possible to give these figures for individual county districts, owing to a new method of notifying such vaccinations. This applies also to the figures for vaccination against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, poliomyelitis and measles, given below.

Diphtheria. No case of diphtheria was notified during the year.

347 children in the Health Area received a complete course of immunisation during the year, the triple antigen against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus being used in all cases. 679 children received reinforcing injections, the diphtheria-tetanus vaccine being used in these cases.

Poliomyelitis. No case of this infection was notified during the year, in the course of which 397 persons in the Health Area received a complete course of oral vaccination, and a further 649 a reinforcing dose.

Measles. Two cases of this disease were notified in April.

Vaccination against this disease was continued during the year, but a shortage of vaccine restricted the number of susceptible children who could be vaccinated. 378 children between the ages of four and eleven years were vaccinated in the whole of the Health Area during the year.

Whooping Cough. One case of this infection was notified in January.

Food Poisoning. No cases were notified during the year.

Tuberculosis

	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>	
	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non-Pul.</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non-Pul.</u>
Cases on Register 31.12.68	6	3	6	3
No. of cases notified during the year	-	-	-	-
Cases restored	-	-	-	-
Inward Transfers	-	-	-	1
Cases Removed	-	1	2	-
<hr/>				
Total on Register 31.12.69	6	2	4	4
<hr/>				

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

The Regional Hospital Board is responsible for treatment of Tuberculosis patients and the County Council for the prevention of spread of the disease and after-care of the patient.

Out-patients and contacts are seen by the Chest Physician at the Chest Clinic at Launceston Hospital. The County Council Tuberculosis Health Visitor attends the Clinic, follows up the patients in their homes, traces contacts and sources of infection and, thus acting as a most valuable and essential "liaison officer" between the curative and preventive services, bridges a most alarming administrative gap. All susceptible contacts of known cases in the Borough are offered B.C.G. vaccination and the majority avail themselves of this method of protection.

The County Council's scheme for B.C.G. vaccination of susceptible Secondary School children was continued during the year, again with an excellent response.

OTHER DISEASES

Cancer of the Lung. During 1969, the deaths of three males due to cancer of the lung were recorded, out of a total of seventeen cancer deaths. Since 1949, there have been 111 male and 122 female deaths from all forms of cancer. Of these, twenty-three male and seven female deaths have been due to cancer of the lung.

Cancer of the Cervix. The County Council's Cervical Cytology Clinic at Launceston continued to operate during the year.

Cancer of the Cervix (contd.)

Women between the ages of 30 and 55 years are accepted for this form of examination. The clinic at Launceston serves the whole of the Health Area, and beyond. During the year, 392 specimens were submitted to the laboratory. No cases of the pre-cancerous stage of the disease, nor of established cancer of the cervix, were discovered, but a number of minor conditions were identified. As a copy of the laboratory report is sent to the patient's general practitioner, he is made aware of these findings, and can arrange treatment, if required.





TABLE IV

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excl. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	4042	1384	1643	43372	20915	-
Number inspected	4042	1384	1643	43372	20915	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>						
Whole carcase condemned	16	63	51	172	61	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1636	1172	12	5424	1233	-
% of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	40.87%	80.93%	3.8%	12.9%	6.84%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	359	-
% of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.9%	-
<u>Cysticercosis only</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	1	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unfit meat rejected	50 tons 2 cwts. 1 Qtr. 12 lbs.					

TABLE V

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR

	<u>INFORMAL NOTICES SERVED</u>	<u>COMPLIED WITH</u>
Defective Drainage	6	6
General Defects	1	1
Insanitary Conditions	7	7
Obstructed Drainage	4	4
Food Hygiene Regulations	12	12
Civic Amenities Act	3	3
Noise Abatement	1	1
Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles Regulations	1	1
Total Number of Complaints Received	91	
Total Number of Visits paid	1650	



APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of  
the Factories Act, 1961.

Part 1 of the Act

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec- tion 7 is enforced by Local Authority	55	46	3	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding outworkers' premises)	8	16	1	-
Total	66	65	4	-

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (Section 1)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (Section 2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp- erature (Section 3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation(Section 4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (Section 6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Section 7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	4	-	-	-

PART VIII of the Act

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of workers in August list required by Section 133(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Altering wearing apparel	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil







